

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

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SOURCE

1. Since the summer of 1951, civilian defense has received renewed emphasis in Hungary. Red Cross courses in first aid (what to do in case of an emergency) had become quite general. One woman out of every household was designated a first-aid leader and she had to attend the Red Cross courses. Since September 1951, all students in the [redacted] have been required to take non-credit courses (two hours weekly) which cover protection against air attack, fire, and mustard gas. Such a gas attack is fully expected in case of war. Fire brigades for each district were organized and all men over 50 years of age had to report for fire fighting once a week beginning in the summer of 1951. [redacted]

Every apartment building had a tenant who was designated "trustee" and had charge of fire extinguishers, evacuation, etc. World War II bomb shelters had since been used for storage, but in the summer of 1951, the government ordered these shelters cleared out and all alarm signals repaired and readied for operation. There had been, [redacted] no general public alert or drill. Although there was grave concern about an atomic bomb attack, no defenses were suggested against it. Rather the feeling prevailed that one would be better off to be killed if an A-bomb fell. The Hungarians were not sure whether the US would resort to atomic warfare.

2. As is the case with all mass activities in Hungary, the CP controls the Red Cross. Beginning in the summer of 1951, that organization gave first-aid courses of six weeks duration. Those who attended the courses were taught what to do in case of emergency, ie, how to administer first aid in case of air attack, fire, or mustard gas. They were told that after a gas attack:

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- (a) gas masks must be used,
- (b) rooms should be fully ventilated,
- (c) oxygen should be administered to those who had breathed the gas,
- (d) medical aid should be sought promptly.

The treatment suggested for mustard gas was as follows: absorb liquid with blotting paper, wash with benzol or petroleum, and finally cover area with loose dry gauze. After such attacks, the water must be boiled. In case of cyanide contamination, boiling is not sufficient.

3. In June 1951, the Red Cross intensified the campaign for blood donations which was begun in 1945. There was no mention of this campaign on the radio or in the press; rather the campaign was carried on by means of posters but the purpose for which the blood was collected was not included. The response to the campaign was generally good. I know nothing of blood banks or where they are located. I do know that the hospitals were in charge of collecting and preserving blood. It was collected in quantities of 300 cc and kept in small glass containers, sterilized, and hermetically sealed. Blood was stored at sub-zero temperature (Centigrade). I know nothing of a Central Blood Supply and Research Institute, a National Blood Supply Service, nor a State Hygiene Institute. The use of blood transfusions was quite widespread in Hungary. Employed persons got free blood transfusions but those who were not employed by the government, such as older people, had to pay for the transfusions or find a person who would give an equivalent amount of blood. One blood transfusion of 250 cc cost 50 forints. I don't think there was any dry plasma in Hungary, nor have I heard of plasma substitutes, extenders, or "Dentran".
4. The ordinary Hungarian, in my opinion, knows practically nothing of bacteriological or chemical warfare. Newspapers have said that the Japanese used biological warfare in World War II. It is common knowledge that there are special units for chemical warfare in the Hungarian Army and that chemists are put into this type of work when they are drafted, but of what their work consists is not generally known. The following is the procedure for chemists who enter the army. All chemists, even professors, enter the army as privates unless they are already officers. If it is felt that they are promising, they are selected for officers' school where they take at least a three months course. Upon graduation they become lieutenants. An alternate procedure is that a man may apply for entrance into a Collegium (officer's school); this selection is made by the Military District. Those accepted for this course attend the university classes in chemistry or engineering. When they are commissioned these officers must serve three years in the Army. There is a training school for officers at Szentendre near Budapest, and one of the students at the Eotvoes Lorand University, Ferenc Nagy, went there in 1951 from April to September. With reference to the military chemical training given those students (particularly those specializing in chemistry) all the information I have was gleaned simply from overhearing students' conversations among themselves; they were presumably forbidden to talk about it. All training was in restricted areas, so that I never saw it. These students were issued Hungarian gas masks, but I never saw anyone around the university carrying one.

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I think that the following subjects were included in their training: mustard gas, phosgene, carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, chloropicrin, cyanogen bromide, possibly cyanogen chloride (although I am not sure). Theory was taken up during the school year, but practical exercises in chemical warfare were given in summer camps; students took their one-month summer training at Vezprem northwest of Balaton Lake as well as other places, the names of which I do not know. I have no definite knowledge of the military curriculum.

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